



**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**  
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*Peter F. Neronha*  
*Attorney General*

March 4, 2021

The Honorable Marvin L. Abney, Chairperson  
House Committee on Finance  
State House  
Providence, RI 02903

RE: HB 5012

Dear Chairperson Abney:

I write today in support of HB 5012 which would establish what does not currently exist in Rhode Island – minimum staffing standards which would improve the quality of care provided in nursing homes and hold them accountable for compliance with those standards.

As Attorney General, one of my most important responsibilities is ensuring and advocating for the health and safety of Rhode Islanders, particularly our most vulnerable residents.

Rhode Island is one of only a handful of states not to have a nursing home staffing standard. Many falls, infections, and other injuries can be prevented by ensuring that health care workers are spending the time we know nursing home residents need to be safe and well cared for. This legislation also supports hard-working nursing home staff, helping them fulfill their mission to provide quality and compassionate care.

By establishing a much-needed standard, the legislation also provides for better accountability. The reporting, monitoring, and fines for non-compliance should ensure that nursing homes maintain safe staffing levels, provide training to staff, and ultimately provide better care to their residents.

The ongoing COVID-19 crisis has only further illustrated the need to ensure that our nursing homes adhere to national standards and best practices. We must do everything that we can to ensure that our nursing homes adhere to the highest safety standards and provide the level of care our residents deserve.

Sincerely,

Peter F. Neronha  
Attorney General

CC: House Committee on Finance